

WALTER NORDHEIMER
HALLGARTEN



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Walter Nordheimer Hallgarten



LONDON
THE CHISWICK PRESS
1908

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“What is a gentleman? I will tell you. A gentleman is one who keeps his promises made to those who cannot enforce them.”

4, HARLEY HOUSE,
REGENT'S PARK.

August, 1908.

MY DEAR JULIA,

You have asked me to write an obituary of Walter, a labour of love which I readily undertake.

My remarks must necessarily be brief, for though his life was blameless it was nevertheless uneventful.

The dear boy was the last person in the world who would have wished anything of the kind, for his innate modesty and desire to remain hidden from the light of criticism formed a predominant feature of his nature.

But we must override this objection and register some of the good qualities which we know he possessed.

You will, I am sure, pardon me if I have allowed myself to indulge in a few panegyrics about you and Adolph, our dear sister Tilly and her late husband, every word being true, if not new, and meant by me in all sincerity.

Yours affectionately,

WILLIAM NORDHEIMER.

MRS. ADOLPH HALLGARTEN,
Citta di Castelli,
Umbria, Italy.

The late
Mr. Walter Nordheimer
Hallgarten

ART would not be in the excellent position it is to-day were it not for the sympathetic encouragement and timely help of a few generous men, who thereby render an invaluable service to their fellow creatures. Intelligent and discriminating assistance helps forward individuals and societies by enabling

them to thoroughly establish themselves and exert a potent influence in the spread of general culture.

Mr. Walter N. Hallgarten, whose recent death at the age of thirty-eight was deeply regretted by a large circle of friends, was a liberal patron of music in its highest forms as well as the drama and literature. Through his beneficence he greatly aided both individuals and institutions, and many an artist gratefully acknowledges his invaluable aid. He was so reticent about his gifts, however, that only his nearest relations knew in a vague way of the kind deeds which he was continuously accomplishing.

He became a bountiful supporter of art in his early manhood through the inheritance of a fortune and very refined tastes. His father and other members of the family had been considered among New York's foremost citizens in giving financial aid to musical ventures. His uncle, Mr. Julius Hallgarten, senior partner of the widely known firm of bankers, Messrs. Hallgarten & Co., became president of the New York Philharmonic Society, and by judiciously subsidizing it for a time and co-operating with Mr. Theodore Thomas (the then conductor) in raising the status of the society, established it on a sound financial

basis, and so effectively ensured its prestige that it has endured even to this day.

Mr. Walter Hallgarten's parents, who were most highly esteemed for their genial qualities of character and lordly hospitality, gathered around them a host of friends composed of the leading bankers, lawyers, and artists of the city, and many still speak of the delightful hours spent in their palatial abode in 45th Street. His mother, an extremely amiable woman, was a musician of much talent and played the piano brilliantly. Besides this congenial atmosphere he also enjoyed the closest ties of friendship

with the uncle referred to above, and his charming wife, in whose home also he heard the best music.

His father, Mr. Adolph Hallgarten, who was the leading partner of the widely known house of Lanman & Kemp, worked so assiduously in building up their enormous business, that his health failed and he found it expedient to retire, coming to Europe for a well-earned rest. He took up his residence with his family in Wiesbaden, where after two years he died. During this time Mr. Walter Hallgarten continued his education, which had been well grounded at Dr. Sach's private school in New York, at

Frankfort. After his father's death his mother removed to Hamburg, where she had relatives.

With a view of fitting him for the position of active partner in the New York firm of Hallgarten & Co., he commenced to learn the business of banking in this important German commercial centre in the International Bank of Hamburg. After a time he came to its London branch, and eventually entered the bank in New York. After two years' experience there, however, he decided to withdraw and devote himself principally to travel.

His desire was to see the world, and one of the results was a most

readable volume from his pen, entitled "Notes of Travel on Five Continents," which he published under the *nom de plume* of "An Old Traveller." His innate modesty and good sense is reflected in the pages of this delightful book, which gives his impression of each part of the world, except South America, and tourists will find much sound advice in it, which they will do well to follow.

He showed a great love of music and was a well known habitué of the opera and best concerts in New York and London. He was conversant with the principal musical events abroad, and was a familiar figure at the Bayreuth and Munich

Festivals, and the Paris, Vienna, and Berlin operas. He would travel any distance necessary to hear a musical work that interested him. In this way he formed many pleasant associations.

He led a quiet life, and was fond of playing the music he liked on his Orchestrelle, and reading a large number and variety of books and magazines. He enjoyed the society of congenial friends, and was a very popular host. He was very much attached to his uncle, Mr. Julius Hallgarten, who, after amassing a fortune, retired from his business and went to Davos, Switzerland, for the benefit of his health, and

that of his charming and devoted wife. Unfortunately he died there. His widow eventually married again, and lives in Hamburg, where she is greatly esteemed for her amiability of character and liberal largesse.

Men of strong purpose and marked individuality who migrated to America in the early days worked under adverse conditions in building up a profession or business, which in many deserving instances yielded lucrative returns. In marked contrast, with the more recent expansion, a leisured class has arisen, showing itself capable of rationally enjoying the competence

inherited from parents and grandparents.

The careers of former financiers of the United States show clearly that it was almost impossible for them to relax their hold upon the vast undertakings built up through their ability and enterprise. One success after another impelled them on to still greater efforts, in which lay the real pleasure of their lives. A like energy to this has been expended in enlarging the scope of providing entertainment for all, and especially those who have the education and means for psychological enjoyment. Facilities for travel have multiplied; every phase of art has developed;

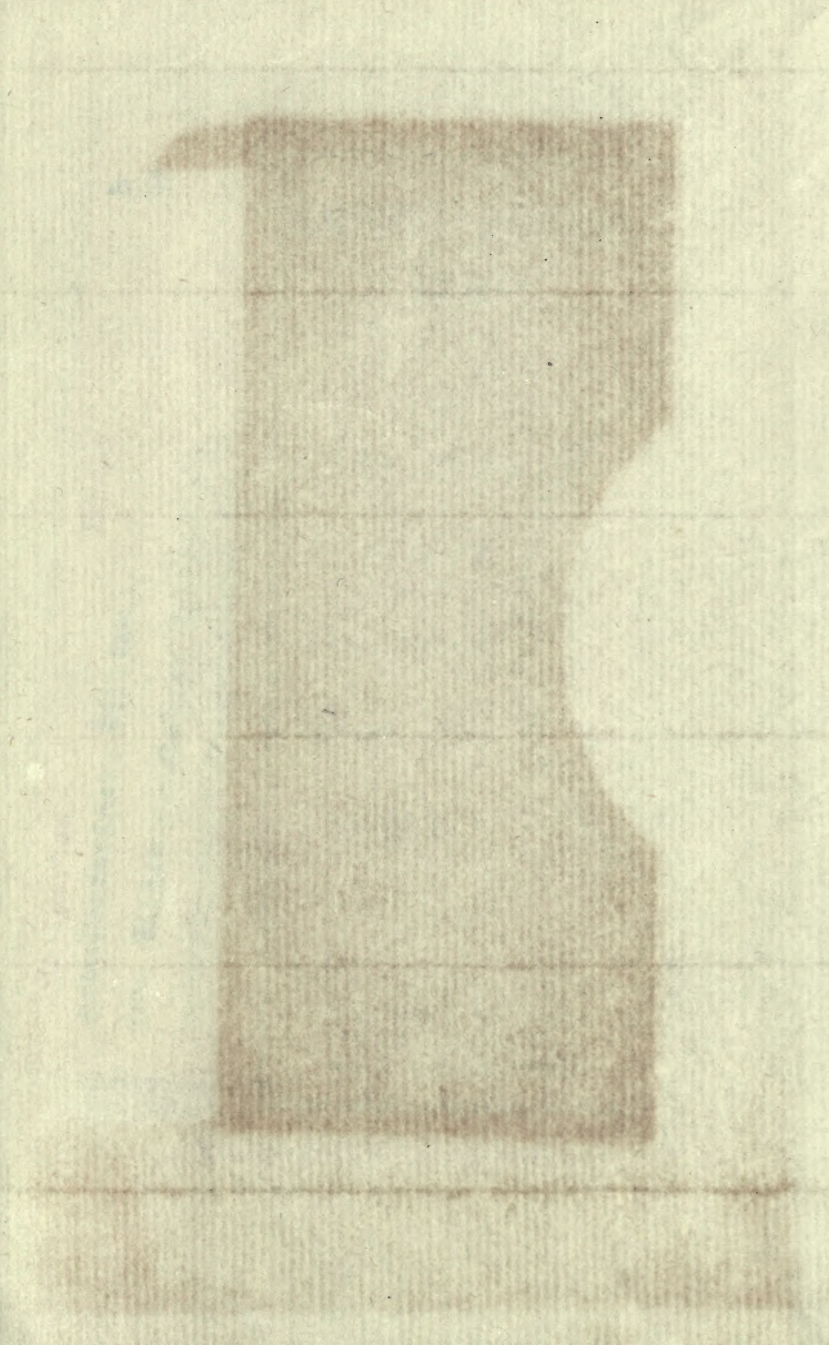
the literature of all time is now readily accessible, and in a thousand ways every taste is catered for.

Mr. Walter N. Hallgarten, under these latter conditions, lived a life which not only brought happiness to himself, but by his sympathy and generosity he lightened the burdens and brightened the lives of many of those with whom he came in contact, and for this, if for no other reason, his name will long be kept in remembrance.





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